new power projects in the State for augmenting the power output to meet the increasing demand for electricity there;

(b) whether a number of power projects have been awaiting sanctions of the Central Government; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) The State Government had requested for the execution of Ramman Hydroelectric project Stage-I (3x12 MW), Stage-III & IV (90 MW) and Stage-V (150-200 MW) in view of financial constraints. 'In principle' approval to the execution of these projects in the Central Sector has been conveyed to the State Government. However, before a final decision is taken in the matter the State Government has been advised to resolve inter-State issues with the Government of Sikkim in regard to Stage-I of the project and expedite submission of detailed project reports for its subsequent stages for technoeconomic clearance.

(b) and (c) A project report for the setting up of Farakka Barrage Hydro Electric Project in the State Sector with an installed capacity of 5x25—125 MW was received in the Central Electricity Authority in April, 1990, from the State Government for technoeconomic clearance. Environmental clearance for the project is awaited. Clarifications on hydrology, civil cost and construction machinery aspects are also awaited from the project authorities.

Attempted hijacking of Indian Airlines flight between Coimbatore and Bangalore

306. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines flight from Coimbatore to Bangalore was recently attempted to be hijacked and if so, what are its details thereof;

(b) whether Government enquired about the person involved in this incident having connections with Sri Lankan militants; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes. On 13-9-90, one T. Mahalingam, an engineering student aged 27 years and a native of Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu, attempted to hijack an Indian Airlines aircraft on flight IC-534 on its flight from Coimbatore to Bangalore. The hijacker commanded the Captain to divert the flight to Colombo for refuelling and onward flying to Perth in Australia. However, the Captain tactfully managed the situation and landed the aircraft at Bangalore airport, where the hijacker was arrested.

(b) and (c) As per the investigations carried out by Karnataka Police, the accused had committed the offence out of his own criminal thoughts and there was no organisational support or sanction from outside.

Supply of coal to thermal power stations in Tamil Nadu

307. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal supply to the Thermal Power Stations in Tamil Nadu has been often affected, and if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the present monthly requirement of coal for the Thermal Stations in Tamil Nadu;

(c) what steps have been taken to supply the full requirement of coal by the Coal India Ltd.; and

(d) whether the Tamil Nadu Government had asked permission to import coal for its requirements; and if so, what action is being taken by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI): (a) Coal supplies to Tamil Nadu thermal